

# Off-Broadway Play To Leave Audience With Insight

By Jalyne Strong  
Post Staff Writer

The original off-broadway play "I Have A Dream," a musical tribute to the Late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., comes to Charlotte on Friday, February 13, 8 p.m., at Owens Auditorium. It will leave those who witness the performance insight, understanding and an appreciation of the life and death of King like no other experience before it.

Much has been written about King the public figure. Some has been recorded about King the private person. Those who take the time to compile, study, and analyze all information about King may come close to an accurate understanding of this individual who has become a legendary hero against all odds.

And that is exactly what award-winning author Josh Greenfeld, in adapting the play "I Have A Dream," has done. "With material culled from books, speeches and interviews, the play adapted by Josh Greenfeld attempts to draw an intimate, psychological portrait of King," the Washington Post wrote in review of the play.

"I Have A Dream" offers the audience the opportunity to revisit the events which shaped King's life and also those events he shaped, such as: the Montgomery boycott, the fire-bombing of the church in Birmingham that took the life of 3 innocent girls, the march on Washington, the night in the Birmingham jail and the award of the Nobel Peace prize. The play presents these events and many others without losing anything in the translation. On the contrary, it brings back these



(Left to right) Chequita Jackson, James Curt Bergwall, Bruce Strickland, Dwight Witherspoon, Diane Weaver, and Herman Jones in a scene from "I Have A Dream," the play with music by

Josh Greenfeld. Woodie King Jr. has directed the play, which is adapted from the writings of Martin Luther King Jr.

happenings with a clarity and feeling which takes the viewer back to that place, that time.

But it's greatest strength is the portrayal of the man behind the events, King the family man, the pastor, the leader, who had to deal with the conflicts of being a family man who must put his family at risk, the pastor who actively resists his country's laws, and the leader who at times led people to death and suffering.

For these reasons writers have called "I Have A Dream" a "personalized and intimate biography," a testimonial to the life and spirit of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

To punctuate each riveting facet and event of King's unique life, the play also presents the songs of the time: spiritual, inspirational, gospel and popular songs that were so much a part of that era. Twenty-eight songs in all are

song by the cast and the accompanying, choral ensemble including, "Standing in the Need of Prayer;" "We Shall Not Be Moved;" "Amazing Grace," and "Abraham, Martin & John."

A cast of 6 performs the roles of "I Have A Dream;" a talented and versatile cast that brings to each role an uncanny but memorable realism. All members of the National Black Touring Circuit, Inc., of New York City, they are: James Curt Bergwall (Bull Connor, Robert and John Kennedy), Chequita Jackson (Coretta Scott King), Herman LeVern Jones (Ralph Abernathy, A. Philip Randolph, Martin Luther King Sr.), Bruce Strickland (Martin Luther King Jr.), Diane Weaver (Rosa Parks) and Dwight Witherspoon, a soul stirring singer who is part of the play's ensemble.

The National Black Touring Circuit, Inc., a performing group

with the purpose of "making existing Black Theatre productions available to a large audience," was founded in 1974 by Woodie King Jr., who is also producer and director of "I Have A Dream."

The Touring Circuit has presented "I Have A Dream" in cities across the country receiving rave reviews at each stop. According to the National Observer, Mrs. Coretta Scott King witnessed the play in Washington, D.C. and admitted afterward, "I was very moved."

The thoughts and words of King, the unique and unforgettable events of the Civil Rights movement, the songs of the time-- all integrated in this one production-- make "I Have A Dream" a provocative and powerful play not to be missed.

"I Have A Dream" is being sponsored by the Charlotte Post newspaper and Premiere Produc-

tions is the executive producer. For ticket information call the Charlotte Post, telephone 376-0496.

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Teresa Lynn McNair  
**McNair-Shipman To Wed**

Mr. and Mrs. T. Y. McNair are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Teresa Lynn McNair to Rev. Sheldon Shipman, the son of Dr. and Mrs. F. George Shipman of Durham, N.C.

The bride-to-be is an exceptional children's teacher with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System and the groom-elect is the pastor of Columbus Chapel AME Zion Church in Davidson and an account executive with Wordpower Inc.

The wedding date has been set for Saturday, August 22 at 6 p.m. at the Third Presbyterian Church. Rev. James Logan will officiate the ceremony.

**Belk Presents "Just For You Two"**

Belk proudly presents "Just For You Two," the 1987 Belk Bridal Fashion Show. The Bridal Show takes place on Saturday, January 31, 2 p.m., in the Grand Ballroom of the Radisson Plaza Hotel Charlotte. Pamela McAuley, Belk fashion director, has created a beautiful showing of all the latest styles for brides, grooms, bridesmaids, ushers and mothers -- every member of the wedding party.

Prior to the show, you may enjoy the music of The Loonis McGlohon Trio. Brides-to-be will register to win one of several exciting door prizes: a rehearsal dinner for 25 at the Radisson; complimentary tuxedo rental from Mitchell's Formalwear; complimentary limousine service from Bush Limousine; beauty products from Estee Lauder and much more. One lucky bride-to-be will be the winner of the Grand Prize Give-Away: a honeymoon trip for two to Orlando, FL, complete with air transportation from Eastern Airlines.

Following the show, Belk and Glorious Cuisine will host a complimentary cake and punch reception in the area adjacent to the Ballroom. Numerous vignettes will be located throughout the reception area highlighting the Belk Bridal Services.

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